## **United States Department of Agriculture**



Natural Resources Conservation Service 1201 NE Lloyd Blvd., Suite 900 Portland. OR 97232-1279

November 1, 2006

OREGON BULLETIN OR300-2007-2

SUBJECT: LTP – CONSERVATION PROGRAMS – WAIVER TO BEGIN PRACTICE INSTALLATION PRIOR TO CONTRACT APPROVAL

<u>Purpose.</u> To provide instructions and guidance on granting a waiver to begin practice installation prior to approval of a conservation program contract.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2008

Conservation Programs Manual Part 512, Conservation Program Contracting, 512.23(c) and 512.91E provide the authority and instructions on granting a waiver to commence practice installation prior to approval of a conservation contract. This bulletin authorizes the Basin Team Leaders to approve these waivers following program guidance and using the attached letter.

Waivers to begin practice installation to Farm Bill program applicants prior to contract approval can be granted under specific circumstances which include: 1) to alleviate significant environmental problems; 2) prevention of endangerment to life or property; and, 3) due to seasonal weather constraints. Waivers are valid for a period not to exceed (NTE) one year. If the application is not selected for funding or the installation does not meet NRCS standards and specifications, the program applicant will NOT be reimbursed for the cost of practice installation.

Farm Bill program applicants wishing to begin practice installation prior to contract approval must submit the request to the appropriate field office. Field office personnel should document the request and forward it to the Basin Team Leader for approval. The Basin Team Leader will send the attached letter to the applicant clearly outlining the rules under which the waiver is granted.

Program applicants WILL NOT be reimbursed for any practice installation completed prior to contract approval without this waiver in place.

If you have any questions please contact Louise Davis, Program Specialist, 503-414-3230, or Bill White, Leader – Programs, 503-414-3085.

BOB GRAHAM State Conservationist

Attachment

DIST: AO

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